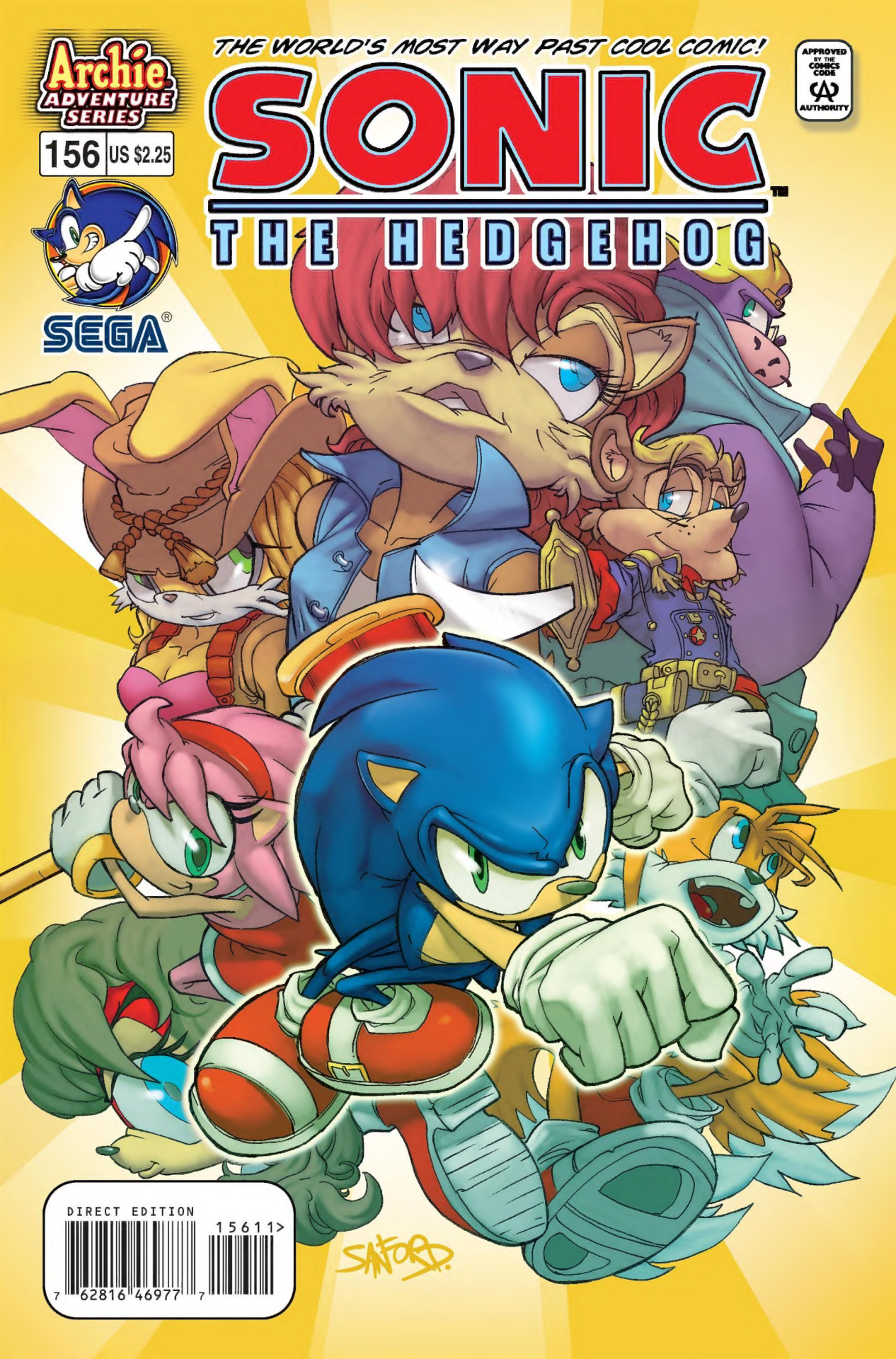
Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
156 US $2.25
THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SEGA
DIRECT EDITION
15611>
7 62816 46977 7
SANFORD

FOR THOSE OF YOU JUST JOINING US, PRINCESS SALLY HAS JUST WED ANTOINE D'COOLETTE...

YOU MAY NOW KISS THE BRIDE!

AND FOR THOSE OF YOU STILL STUNNED BY THE TURN OF EVENTS DEPICTED LAST ISSUE, WE DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION TO THE HAPPY COUPLE...

I FEEL AWFUL!

THIS IS NOT THE WEDDING DAY I ALWAYS IMAGINED!

SACRE BLEU! I AM JUST A STEP AWAY FROM BECOMING LE KING!

IT WON'T BE MUCH LONGER--

--BEFORE KING ACORN LIES DEAD, ENABLING ME TO SEIZE LE CROWN!

SMILE FOR THE CAMERAS, MY QUEEN!

OUR SUBJECTS EXPECT OUR BEST!

THE THINGS ONE DOES IN THE NAME OF DUTY!

EXACTLY!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (issn:10705090), No. 156, Jan., 2006. Published every 4 weeks, twice in Feb., by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher, Michael I. Silberkleit, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies $2.25 in the U.S.; $2.65 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S. $29.25 for 13 issues; $34.45 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. SEGA, Sonic The Hedgehog, and all related characters and indicia are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2005. SEGA CORPORATION and SONICTEAM, LTD./SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2005. All Rights Reserved. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc., 650 Townsend St., Ste. 650, San Francisco, CA 94103 www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in Canada

BUT WHAT OF

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

DOES HE NO LONGER CARE FOR THE FAIR SALLY? HAVE THE TWO GROWN THAT FAR APART?

IN A WORD, NO.

FOR IF THE PRINCESS OF ACORN COULD SEE HER TRUE BELOVED, SHE WOULD FIND HIM MEETING WITH THE ONE BEING CAPABLE OF ALTERING THE COURSE OF EVENTS...

--AND SO I CAME TO YOU--

--TO--TO ASK--

--IF YOU CAN SAVE SALLY FROM MAKING THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF HER LIFE!

LINE OF SUCCESSION Part 2

Writer: KEN PENDERS
Artist: JAMES FRY
Inker: JIM AMASH
Letterer: JOHN WORKMAN
Colorist: JASON JENSEN

Editor: MIKE PELLERITO
Managing Editor: VICTOR GORELICK
Editor in Chief: RICHARD GOLDWATER
Special Thanks to Robert Leffler and Dyna Lopez at SEGA Licensing

SALLY HAS EARNED HER RIGHT TO BE QUEEN!

FOR ME TO INTERFERE AT THIS HOUR WOULD BE UNCONSCIONABLE!

BUT--

THAT IS ALL! THIS MEETING IS OVER!

AND SO...

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER!

BEATS ME WHY KNUX THINKS THIS JERK IS SUCH A STAND-UP GUY--

--WHEN ALL I SEE IS A BIG WUSS!

WASN'T IT THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CEREMONY, IRVING?

THAT IT WAS, SARAH!

"CEREMONY"? "WAS"???

AM I TOO LATE?

EXCUSE ME, BUT WHERE'S THE WEDDING TAKING PLACE?

OH, YOU JUST MISSED IT!

THE COUPLE AND ALL THE GUESTS ARE NOW AT THE BANQUET HALL!

THANKS!

GOTTA JUICE...!

WEREN'T HE AND THE PRINCESS AN ITEM AT ONE TIME?

WHAT I DON'T GET IS--WHY NOW?

AND IF I HAD STAYED AT HER SIDE, WOULD WE BE DOING THE SAME?

NUTS!

THIS IS ALL WRONG!

SHE SHOULD BE WITH ME!

SALLY!

GET OUT OF MY WAY!

I'M SORRY, SONIC, BUT THE *COMMANDER* LEFT *ORDERS* IN CASE YOU *CRASHED* THE PARTY!

YEAH?

WELL--

TRY AND *STOP* ME!

WHOA!

HALT RIGHT THERE!

GUARDS! ARREST ZHAT *TRES-PASSER!*

I DON'T RECALL HIM BEING *INVITED* TO ZHE *FESTIVITIES!*

SALLY! DON'T LET THEM DO THIS!

NOT AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH!

I'M SORRY, SONIC--

--BUT I MUST BE SUPPORTIVE OF MY HUSBAND!

GUARDS! TAKE HIM AWAY!

I DEEPLY REGRET THIS UNPLEASANTNESS, MY DEAR!

NOW, IF YOU'LL PARDON ME, THERE'S A SMALL MATTER I NEED TO ATTEND TO!

CERTAINLY!

NAMELY, GIVING THE KING HIS FINAL DOSE!

HALT!

ONLY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ARE ALLOWED BEYOND THIS POINT!

I BELIEVE MY CREDENTIALS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

UH...ER...YES, ABSOLUTELY, YOUR--

"NOW...COULD SOMEONE PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME WHY ALL THIS SECURITY ON THIS MOST FESTIVE OF OCCASIONS?"

THE LONGER I PROLONG ZIS, THE MORE I RISK DISCOVERY!

ZEREFORE, TONIGHT--

--LE KING MUST DIE!

"BUT THE COMMANDER SAID NO VISITORS!?"

AND SINCE WHEN DOES A COMMANDER OUTRANK A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY?

OPEN THE CELL DOOR AT ONCE!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

PRINCE ELIAS!!!

BUT HOW--?

OR MORE TO THE POINT--

--WHY?

I THOUGHT YOU SAID THERE WASN'T ANY *REASON* FOR YOU TO GET *INVOLVED!*

I THOUGHT SO, TOO--

--BUT AS MY WIFE *MEG* POINTED OUT, THESE ARE *DANGEROUS* TIMES!

AND NOTHING IS *MORE* DANGEROUS THAN THE *TRANSFER-ENCE* OF *POWER!*

WHAT DANGER? SALLY BECOMES QUEEN! *BIG DEAL!*

AHH--BUT WHAT IF SHE CHOOSES TO *ELEVATE* HER HUSBAND...

--TO *KING?*

ANTOINE?

HE'S NOT MY *FAVORITE* CUPCAKE BY ANY STRETCH, BUT I CAN'T BUY HIM BEING *DISLOYAL!*

NEVERTHE-LESS, THE *ONLY* WAY TO BE CERTAIN IS FOR *ME* TO CLAIM THE CROWN!

FATHER?

KNOCK KNOCK!

COMMANDER D'COOLETTE?

SHOULDN'T YOU BE *DOWN-STAIRS* WITH YOUR *BRIDE* IN THE BANQUET HALL?

MY BRIDE MAY BE ON THE VERGE OF BECOMING A *QUEEN*--

--BUT I STILL HAVE A *DUTY* TO MON *KING*!

I CAN ONLY HOPE YOU'LL SHOW ME THE SAME SENSE OF DUTY ONCE I ASSUME THE CROWN!

YOU, YOUR HIGH-NESS?

ZHAT WILL COME AS A COMPLETE **SURPRISE** TO ZHE **QUEEN MOTHER**!

ZHE *SWINE*!

AFTER ALL MY CAREFUL PLANNING, MONTHS OF PATIENCE--

--ALL FOR **NAUGHT** BECAUSE ZIS PEEG OF A SON DECIDES HE'S NOW A MAN?!

MON DIEU! NOT IN ZIS LIFE-TIME!

LE KING CAN WAIT!

ZIS **BLEMISH** ON MOBIUS MUST BE DEALT WITH *FIRST*!

I'M GOING NOW TO REJOIN YOUR *SISTER* AND *MOTHER*!

WOULD ZHE **BOTH** OF YOU CARE TO *JOIN* ME?

BEFORE LONG, BACK AT THE BANQUET HALL...

ONCE MY NEW HUSBAND REJOINS US--

--WE CAN COMMENCE WITH THE CORONATION!

NOT SO FAST!

AS FIRST-BORN, I ASSERT MY RIGHT TO THE CROWN!

NO REACTION FROM ANTOINE!

EITHER HE'S THE COOLEST CUSTOMER OR ELSE ELIAS IS BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE!

YOU REALIZE, OF COURSE, THAT YOUR STEP-CHILD IS INELIGIBLE IN THE LINE OF SUCCESSION, ELIAS!

ONLY THE BLOOD ROYALE MAY SIT ON THE THRONE!

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS, ELIAS?

I ABANDONED THE CROWN BECAUSE OF LOVE--

AND NOW IT'S BECAUSE OF LOVE--

--THAT I MUST ACCEPT IT!

MY SON, YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH I'VE LONGED FOR YOU TO TAKE YOUR RIGHTFUL PLACE!

KNEEL AS A PRINCE, ELIAS, HEIR TO THE THRONE ACORN!

AND ARISE KING ELIAS, SOVEREIGN OF ACORN!

I AM SO **PROUD** OF YOU, MY SON!

SINCE ELIAS WAS **NOT** ACCOMPANIED BY EITHER HIS **WIFE** OR CHILD-- CORRECTION: **STEP-CHILD**--

--ZHEY WILL **EVENTUALLY** HAVE TO BE **DISPOSED** OF IN ORDER TO SECURE MY POSITION!

BUT NOW, IN PLAIN SIGHT OF EVERY-ONE, I'LL **ELIMINATE** ZEE PRINCE--

--WITHOUT ANYONE BEING AWARE THAT A SIMPLE **HANDSHAKE** WILL BE ZEE **CATALYST.**

I'M **SPEECHLESS!** THANK YOU, SALLY!

AND I AS WELL, ELIAS!

YOU HAVE MY **FULL** AND **TOTAL** SUPPORT!

ALLOW ME TO EXTEND MY **CONGRATULATIONS** AS WELL, YOUR HIGHNESS!

LOOKS SHARP --LIKE A **BLADE,** OR--OR--

SOME-THING'S **SHINY** IN TWAN'S HAND--

GET BACK, YOUR HIGHNESS!

A HYPO-DERMIC NEEDLE!

WHADDYA BET IT'S NOTHING YOU'D WANNA GET STUCK WITH!?

UNSPEAKABLE DOG!!!

!

WOOF!

I'LL SEE YOU THROWN INTO ZHE DUNGEONS FOR ZHIS!!!

WHEN ZEE SUBJECTS LEARN ZHEIR SO-CALLED HERO IS NOTHING BUT A SNIVELING TRAITOR!

--ZHEY WILL DEMAND I PERSONALLY THROW AWAY ZHE KEY!

THEY SURE WILL--

--ONCE I SHOW EVERY-ONE WHAT A PHONY YOU ARE!

YOU DARE BESMIRCH ZE NAME OF ANTOINE D'COO-

UGH!

ANTOINE, MAYBE! BUT NOT OUR ANTOINE!

FOR ONE THING, HE WAS NO GREAT SHAKES AS A FIGHTER--

--AND HE TOTALLY LACKED A KILLER INSTINCT!

BUT Y'KNOW WHAT THE REAL CLINCHER WAS?

WHEN NO ONE-- NOT EVEN BUNNIE-- COULD EXPLAIN HOW YOU GOT THAT SCAR!

ONCE I ADDED TWO PLUS TWO--

--IT ONLY EQUALED ONE THING!... YOU'RE EVIL ANTOINE!

SO I'M TAKING YOU BACK WHERE YOU BELONG!

I'M SURE YOU RECOGNIZE THIS DOO-DAD!*

*INDEED, ANTOINE SHOULD, AS REVEALED IN SONIC #150.

BEFORE LONG, ON ANOTHER MOBIUS IN ANOTHER ZONE...

PSST! HEY, TWAN!

YO, WAKE UP!

YOU'RE GOING HOME!

OH, SONIC-- YOU ARE TRULY MON AMI!

BUT HOW DID YOU LEARN OF MY PREDICAMENT?

LET'S JUST SAY OUR FRIEND ISN'T THE COYOTE YOU ARE!

THIS ISN'T A DREAM? WE CAN REALLY...

...GET BACK!?

WITH THIS SPIFFY ZONE-LINK GENERATOR, I CERTAINLY HOPE SO!

BESIDES--

"--IT'S TIME THE GOOD GUYS HAD A HAPPY ENDING FOR A CHANGE!"

HERE YOU GO, SIS!

MY FIRST PROCLAMATION AS KING!

MY ANNULMENT!

IT'S LIKE MY WEDDING NEVER HAPPENED!

A FAIR POINT--

--BUT NOW YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO--

--WITH THE TRUE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE!

HEY, BABE, GOT A MINUTE FOR A FRIEND?

IF IT'S GOOD NEWS, WHY, YEAH, SUGAH HOG!

IF IT'S BAD--

--I'M NOT SURE I WANNA KNOW--

--ESPECIALLY AFTER THE RUCKUS WE HAD TO DEAL WITH AFTER YOU HAD CUT OUT!

THIS IS BETTER THAN GOOD!

C-MON--

--AND MEET *SOMEONE* WHO'S BEEN *MISSING* YOU FOR A *LONG* TIME!

I'M *SURPRISED* SHE TOOK HIM BACK SO *EASILY!*

I *WASN'T!*

SHE NEVER FELL OUT OF LOVE WITH HIM!

HOW CAN YOU SAY *THAT?*

I *SAW* HER PUTTING THE *MOVES* ON YOU NOT TOO LONG AGO!

OH, THAT!

SHE WAS JUST TRYING TO *PROVOKE* TWAN!

RIIIGHT!

AND THAT'S *ALL* IT WAS?

PRETTY MUCH!

NOW THAT WE'VE SETTLED THAT, WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE *US?*

US?

WE'RE *YOUNG* AND THERE'S NO RUSH!

YEAH, I DO, DON'T I?

YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO *SWEET TALK* A GIRL OFF HER FEET!

Next: SHADOW IS BACK!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG PRESENTS

DULCY IN THE DRAGON

THE PRICE OF FLAME PART TWO

HEY, EVERYBODY-- LAST ISSUE WE LEARNED A LOT ABOUT DULCY. WE ALSO LEARNED THAT PROTECTED UNDER THE PLANET BY DISTANCE AND ANCIENT MAGIC, *ROBOTICIZED DRAGONS* HAD SURVIVED! ROBOTNIK, HAS USED THE ROBIAN DRAGONS TO ATTACK THE LAST OF THE FREE DRAGONS LIVING INSIDE THE VOLCANO HOME OF THE SECRET CITY OF VESUVIUS!

SURRENDER AND ACCEPT ROBOTICIZATION! RESIST AND YOU PERISH! THIS VOLCANO AND ITS VAST ENERGY RESOURCES NOW BELONG TO ROBOTNIK!

CHKOOM

SOUND THE ALARM!

ALERT THE ELDERS!

PTUM TUM TUM

ZZRRT

GET THE CHILDREN TO SAFETY!

*You saw it last issue. If not, go get one... We'll wait!--Mikeditor

WRITES: **MIKE GALLAGHER**
DRAWS: **ART MAWHINNEY**
INKS/LETTERS: **MIKE HIGGINS**
COLORS: **JASON JENSEN**

OOOHHH... I'M SORRY, Z-ZUH-ZAN... IT WAS MY FUH-FAULT*... UHHH-- WHAT THE--?! THAT SUH-SOUND---

THRAK PYOW

*A reference to her abusive domestic partner as seen in STH #107. --MP

IZZIQ

AIEEEE!

MY GOSH NOW I REMEMBER-- MECHA-DRAGONS! VESUVIO'S BEING ATTACKED!

EEEEYAH!

NOW JOIN OUR MECHA-WORLD, CHILD!

NO-- PLEASE DON'T!

BACK OFF, ROBO-BULLY!

WHAROOM

=BZZT-SQUAWK!=

THANKS, STRANGER! MY NAME'S SPARKY. I DON'T RECOGNIZE YOU, BUT HURRY! THE DEFENDERS ARE ARE ABOUT TO LAY DOWN A SUPPRESSING FIRE!

??

SEE WHAT I MEAN, STRANGER?

INDEED!

PULL BACK-- THE FLAMES APPROACH MELT-POINT!

THAT'S A PRETTY AWESOME DEFENSIVE STRATEGY!

YES, BUT THEY CAN'T KEEP IT UP FOREVER! WE NEED A BATTLE PLAN! CAN YOU HELP US STRANGER?

WE WANT NO HELP FROM YOU, DULCINEA!

:GLINT!:

TRAITOROUS WENCH! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS INVASION OF UPPERWORLDERS! TAKE HER TO THE PILLORY AT ONCE!

NO! GRENDEL, STOP! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! SHE SAVED ME!

OW! OW! OW!

SILENCE, SPARKY! YOU RISK MUCH, EVEN IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS!

WAIT! PLEASE--I CAN HELP! I'M A TRAINED FREEDOM FIGHTER!

YOU'LL BE DEALT WITH LATER! COME, SPARKY-- THE WALL OF FLAMES IS DWINDLING AND THE MECHA-DRAGONS WILL SOON BE UPON US! I MUST JOIN THE FRAY!

HE'S RIGHT! THEY COULDN'T MAINTAIN THE FLAME WALL-- HERE COME THE MECHA-DRAGONS!

THE VESUVIANS ARE PUTTING UP A GOOD FIGHT, BUT LOTS OF THEM ARE GETTING ROBOTICIZED!

WHOA! THAT BIG BRUISER, GRENDEL, WHO CHAINED ME UP JUST WALLOPED A MECHA-DRAGON.

IT'S SPIRALING OUT OF THE SKY... IT'S GOING TO CRASH... *Uh-Oh!*... IT'S HEADED RIGHT FOR *ME!*

YEOW!

SPLORCH

MHHH-H-HMF... S-SO HEAVY! B-BUH-BUT I-- MUST-- HELP...

crackle!

TSSSSs

bz*z*zzt!

UGGRRR-R-R-

ROWWRR!!!

OWWWW-- BY DOSE!

HEY... IT... IT'S GONE!

THE COLLISION YANKED THE GOLD RING OUT OF MY NOSE! MY FLAME BREATH IS BACK!!! FIRST THING I'LL DO IS CAUTERIZE THE WOUND.

FSSK

AND THE NEXT THING I'LL DO IS TAKE OUT YEARS OF FRUSTRATION AND ANGER ON ROBOTNIK'S MECHA-DRAGONS!

HANG ON, FELLOW VESUVIANS! THE CAVALRY IS COMING--AND HER NAME IS DULCY!!!

SKAROOSH

LOOK! THE STRANGER IS TURNING THE TIDE OF THE BATTLE!

INDEED! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR MYSELF SAY IT, BUT...

YOU GO, GIRL! SLAG 'EM ALL, DULCINEA!!!

YOU HEARD THE MAN-- LET'S HAVE US A MELTDOWN!

SSSKRAKLE

A SHORT TIME LATER...

LOOK, DULCY... THE MOLTEN REMAINS OF THE MECHA DRAGONS ARE STREAMING INTO LAVA LAKE. ALL OF VESUVIO THANKS YOU. WHY DO YOU SEEM SO SAD?

=SNIFFLE= IT'S JUST THAT...

KSSSSHHH

=CHOKE= THOSE MECHA-DRAGONS WERE ALL ALIVE ONCE =SOB= INCLUDING MY MOTHER. =HUCK= AND BY MELTING THEM, I RUINED ANY CHANCE THAT THEY MIGHT SOMEDAY RETURN!

AN UNDERSTANDABLE SENTIMENT, BUT FORTUNATELY UNFOUNDED... OBSERVE!

YOU SEE? A DRAGON'S SPIRIT IS ETERNAL. INSTEAD OF PASSING AWAY, IT RETURNS TO THE PRIMAL FIRE AND WILL BE REBORN IN AN UPCOMING GENERATION. YOUR MOTHER AND ALL THE OTHERS WILL BE BACK!

=SOB= TH-THAT'S W-WONDERFUL!

A SHORT TIME LATER...

DULCINEA, THE DECISION OF THE VESUVIO COUNCIL IS UNANIMOUS. SPARKY--STEP FORWARD!

A FULL PARDON IS GRANTED AND YOUR CITIZENSHIP IS RENEWED.

SNAP

MOREOVER, YOU SHALL BE OUR OFFICIAL "AMBASSADOR" TO THE UPPER-WORLD WHERE WE HOPE TO SOMEDAY RETURN.

MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, YOUR BLACK SINGE RING IS HEREBY RESTORED. CARRY THE FLAME PROUDLY.

THANK YOU-- I SHALL!

THE END

SHADOW RETURNS IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #157, ON SALE 12/28/05!
PLUS GET THE NEWEST SONIC COMIC SERIES, SONIC X #4, ON SALE 12/14/05